



**HEARING NOTES**

**Council Resolution: 21-0062R**

**American Rescue Plan Quarterly Oversight Hearings**

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Review**

**Committee:** Ways and Means  
**Chaired by:** Councilman Eric T. Costello  
**Hearing Date:** Tuesday, November 16, 2021  
**Time (Beginning):** 10:00 AM  
**Time (Ending):** 11:25 PM  
**Location:** Virtual "WebEx" Meeting  
**Total Attendance:** Approximately 40

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

Eric T. Costello                      Kristerfer Burnett  
Robert Stokes, Sr.                 Ryan Dorsey  
Danielle McCray                   Sharon Green Middleton  
Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer

Bill Synopsis in the file? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Attendance sheet in the file? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Agency reports read? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Video or audio-digitally recorded? .....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a
Certification of advertising/posting notices in the file? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Evidence of notification to property owners? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a
Final vote taken at this hearing? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a

**This Resolution will remain open throughout the legislative term – no vote will be conducted, on-going quarterly meetings.**

**Major Speakers**

*(This is not an attendance record.)*

- Shemiah Kerney, Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs

## Major Issues Discussed

1. **The Director for the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs** gave opening remarks and gave a PowerPoint presentation. *A copy is on file.* Some highlights from her remarks were:
  - Thanked the Mayor for the opportunity to serve in the position
  - Acknowledged and thanked her team for teamwork/job performance
  - Statement made to the residents of the city:
    - Talked about processes, strategics, ideas, and etc.
    - About policies
    - Goal: To see a better Baltimore
2. Committee/council members asked questions, stated concerns, and made comments. Some highlighted topics of discussion and/or concern were:
  - **Questions/Concerns/Comments**
    - Makeup of the Non-Profit Panel/Board – is it available? **Answer: Yes, was already submitted**
    - Concern: Wanted the makeup of the panel to of those who are not seeking funds; could be a conflict of interest
      - Why not create an independent body? **Answer: We are using alternate(s) to serve on the Board when there are conflicts of interest**
    - When will the Dashboard (progress report) be available? **Answer: It is contingent upon the time of the disbursement of the funds**
    - **Requested by President Mosby: Let us know when the dashboard is available so we can get it out to the public**
    - How many non-profits have been scored to date? **Answer: 28 out of 191 applications**
    - Proposals: Were they unsolicited?
    - Was any guidance provided to agencies as to what is or is not available or eligible?
    - Suggestion: More outreach to agencies to provide more training on the proposal processes and eligibilities
    - Comment: Think there is some confusion within some agencies; need additional outreach. A high volume of proposals were denied
    - Glad to hear technical assistance will be available because the application process is hard
    - Similar Proposals
      - How do you handle proposals received with similar ideas?
    - Talked about the importance of giving endorsements in a strategic way
      - Are you sending out another round of endorsements/information to us? **Answer: Yes**
    - Application Review: Is it on a first come first served basis? **Answer: Yes**
    - Public Safety – How many applications been submitted for this?
    - Housing, homelessness, rental assistance, etc.
      - Have any discussion been made for funding for same? **Answer: Yes**
      - Have any funding been earmarked for same?
    - Projects and/or Items that were already underfunded before COVID
      - Can you talk a little more about this issue?

- Is of concern - more funding is needed
- Concern: Staff and labor shortages due to COVID
- Some discussion regarding the 120 contact tracers
- Guidance to Agencies
  - Comments: Part of this responsibility is on the City Administrator
  - It is important to make the communication needed happen between agencies
  - City Administrator should be at these meetings to share the work of his office. **Answer: Per Chairman Costello, the City Administrator is not in attendance because of him but will make sure to have him or a representative attend future meetings if needed**
- Is there any additional guidance for project development for the non-profits?
- How many COVID tests do we have?
- Are you looking at other jurisdictions to see what they are doing with their funding? **Answer: Yes**
- Comment: I equate these quarterly meetings to the budget process
- **Requested by Chairman Costello: List of non-profits; did not receive, please provide same**
- New Positions created with funds
  - Approximately 40 jobs
  - Was there any discussion on how to pay for these positions after funding is gone? **Answer: All employees in these positions understands when funding is gone the position(s) expires.**
- How much of the \$50 million was allocated to community-based organizations?
- Can those who received funding re-apply?
- Comment: Do not want us to do the same things over and over; want the City to stay progressive as other cities are!

3. Hearing called to recess.

### Further Study

Was further study requested?

Yes  No

If yes, describe. See requests noted in **"Yellow" highlighted** in the Major Issues Discussed section above.

*Marguerite M. Currin*

Marguerite M. Currin, Committee Staff

Date: November 18, 2021

cc: Bill File  
OCS Electronic File



## Baltimore City Council Committee Hearing Attendance Record

<b>Subject:</b> <span style="background-color: yellow;">Resolution</span> – American Rescue Plan Quarterly Oversight Hearing – <b>1<sup>ST</sup> Quarter Review</b>	Resolution #: 21-0062R
<b>Committee:</b> Ways and Means	<b>Chair:</b> Eric T. Costello
<b>Date:</b> <span style="background-color: yellow;">Tuesday, November 9, 2021</span>	<b>Time:</b> 10:00 AM
<b>Location:</b> Virtual "WebEx" Meeting	

<b>PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY</b>			What is your position on this bill?		Lobbyist: Are you registered in the City?*		
<b><u>CHECK HERE TO TESTIFY</u></b>			For	Against	Yes	No	
First Name	Last Name	Address / Organization / Email	Testify	For	Against	Yes	No
John	Doe	400 N. Holliday St. Johndoenbmore@yahoo.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
		<i>See hearing notes</i>					

\*NOTE: IF YOU ARE COMPENSATED OR INCUR EXPENSES IN CONNECTION WITH THIS BILL, YOU MAY BE REQUIRED BY LAW TO REGISTER WITH THE CITY ETHICS BOARD AS A LOBBYIST. REGISTRATION CAN BE DONE ONLINE AND IS A SIMPLE PROCESS. FOR INFORMATION VISIT: [HTTPS://ETHICS.BALTIMORECITY.GOV/](https://ethics.baltimorecity.gov/) OR CALL: 410-396-4730

# City of Baltimore

City Council  
City Hall, Room 408  
100 North Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Ways and Means

---

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

10:00 AM Virtual/Du Burns Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall: Phone:  
+1-408-418-9388, Access Code: 2342 595 8295, Password:  
Public, Link: [https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?  
MTID=e35ba5ac612bcbabdb5ede0e6943ecd56](https://bmore.webex.com/bmore/onstage/g.php?MTID=e35ba5ac612bcbabdb5ede0e6943ecd56)

---

21-0062R  
CHARM TV 25

#### CALL TO ORDER

#### INTRODUCTIONS

#### ATTENDANCE

Present 7 - Eric T. Costello, Kristerfer Burnett, Ryan Dorsey, Danielle N. McCray, Sharon Green Middleton, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, and Robert Stokes Sr.

#### ITEM SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

##### 21-0062R

##### **American Rescue Plan Quarterly Oversight Hearings**

For the purpose of calling for quarterly budget oversight hearings regarding the disbursement and management of \$641 million in federal funding to the City of Baltimore through the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to improve transparency and accountability for the pivotal task of responding to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Sponsors:** President Nicholas J. Mosby, Eric T. Costello, Sharon Green Middleton, Danielle N. McCray, Mark Conway, Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Robert Stokes, Sr., Kristerfer Burnett, Odette Ramos, James Torrence, John T. Bullock, Zeke Cohen

Hearing recessed.

#### ADJOURNMENT